

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KINSHA 01591 151532Z
ACTION L-03

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EINV, CG
SUBJECT: LEMAN-COURTOY ASSETS FROZEN IN ZAIRE

REF: 77 STATE 304890

1. ZAIRIAN LAW 57 OF DECEMBER 31, 1965, FORBIDS SALE OR RENTAL OF PROPERTY LOCATED IN ZAIRE FOR FOREIGN CURRENCY. THE THREE HOUSES OWNED BY MR. LEMAN-COURTOY IN MATADI ARE BEING MANAGED BY SONAS, THE NATIONAL INSURANCE COMPANY WHICH MANAGES MOST PROPERTIES OWNED BY PEOPLE LIVING OUTSIDE ZAIRE. RENT FROM HOUSES GOES INTO ACCOUNT IN LEMAN-COURTOY'S NAME WHICH SONAS CONTROLS. ACCOUNT NOW TOTALS 1,874 ZAIRES (ABOUT \$2,300). TOTAL IS SMALL APPARENTLY BECAUSE SONAS PAYS TAXES AND UPKEEP FROM RENTAL

INCOME. FURTHERMORE, ONLY THREE OF THE SIX RENTERS PAY REGULARLY SINCE TWO ARE GOZ OFFICES AND ONE IS A CAPTAIN IN THE FAZ. ONE MATADI FIRM (COMMEXAS, B.P. 83, MATADI, TELEX 814 MATADI) CURRENTLY RENTING ONE HOUSE HAS EXPRESSED INTEREST IN BUYING THAT HOUSE. PROCEEDS FROM SALE WOULD GO INTO SAME SONAS FUND.

2. ACCORDING TO SONAS OFFICIAL, LEMON-COURTOY COULD GRANT POWER OF ATTORNEY TO SOMEONE IN ZAIRE AND THAT PERSON COULD
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LEGALLY WITHDRAW ZAIRES FROM LEMAN-COURTOY'S ACCOUNT AND ATTEMPT TO CONVERT THEM TO DOLLARS THROUGH THE BANKS. CENTRAL BANK CIRCULAR 140 OF AUGUST 8, 1972, FORBIDS TRANSMITTING ZAIRES INTO OR OUT OF THE COUNTRY. GIVEN CURRENT FOREIGN EXCHANGE SHORTAGE, CHANCES OF CONVERTING ZAIRES TO DOLLARS THROUGH THE BANKS ARE VERY SLIM.

3. IF LEMAN-COURTOY WISHES TO PURSUE THIS MATTER FURTHER, HE
MAY WISH TO ENGAGE A LAW FIRM IN ZAIRE TO ASSIST HIM.

DECONTROL UPON RECEIPT
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